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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/388,063	08/30/1999	VISHNU AGARWAL	MI22-1196	3351

21567 7590 11/29/2001

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EXAMINER

FENTY, JESSE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2815

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2001

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/388,063

Applicant(s)

AGARWAL ET AL.

Examiner

Jesse A Fenty

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 16.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on 09/05/01 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/388,063 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Claim Objections

1. Claims 11, 17, 22 and 29 are objected to because of the following informalities: The word, "wherein" is missing from the claims. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 5-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In re claims 5, 12, 18 and 25, the limitation, "the layer comprising at least one portion" is vague and indefinite. It is unclear what the limits of the "portion" are.

In re claims 6 and 19, the limitations, "wherein the another portion" and "of the another of the metals" are vague and indefinite, confusing language.

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In re claim 7, the limitations, “the one metal” and “the another portion” are vague and indefinite. It is unclear which layers are being referred to.

In re claim 8, the limitation, “the at least one portion” is confusing language and the limitation, “the one electrode” is indefinite, not specifying which electrode.

In re claim 9, 13, 15, 21, 26 and 28, the limitations regarding the “portions” are vague and indefinite. It is unclear if the “portions” are layers or portions of layers.

In re claim 12, the limitation, “absence of the one metal in the oxide” is unclear.

In re claim 20, the multiple references to “the another” are vague and indefinite.

In re claim 27, the language, “the another portion” is confusing language.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

5. Claims 5-9, 11-15, 17-22, 25-29 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,153,898).

In re claims 5 and 12, as best understood, Watanabe (Fig. 1) discloses a capacitor comprising first and second conductive electrodes (14, 16) having a high k capacitor dielectric region (15) positioned therebetween, the high k capacitor dielectric region comprising a layer of metal oxide having multiple different metals bonded with oxygen (column 4, lines 10-17, 24-26), one of the metals when bonded with oxygen having a first current leakage potential, another of

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the metals when bonded with oxygen having a second current leakage potential which is greater than the first current leakage potential, the layer comprising at least one portion having greater concentration of the one metal bonded with oxygen which is more proximate at least one of the first and second electrodes (column 4, lines 37-39) than another portion more proximate a center of the layer.

In re claim 6, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 5, wherein the another portion has a greater concentration of the another of the metals bonded with oxygen than the one portion.

In re claim 7, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 5, wherein the layer comprises portions having a greater concentration of the one metal bonded with oxygen more proximate both the first and second electrodes than the another portion more proximate the center of the layer.

In re claim 8, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 5, wherein the at least one portion contacts the one electrode.

In re claims 9, 15 and 21, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the devices of claims 5, 12 and 18 respectively, wherein the layer comprises portions having a greater concentration of the one metal bonded with oxygen more proximate both the first and second electrodes than the another portion more proximate the center of the layer, said greater concentration portions respectively contacting the first and second electrodes.

In re claim 11, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 5, wherein the capacitor dielectric region consists essentially of the layer.

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In re claim 13, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 12, wherein the layer comprises portions having a greater concentration of the first material more proximate both the first and second electrodes than the another portion more proximate a center of the layer.

In re claim 14, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 12, wherein the at least one portion contacts the one electrode.

In re claim 17, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 12, wherein the capacitor dielectric region consists essentially of the layer.

In re claims 18 and 25, as best understood, Watanabe (Fig. 1) discloses a capacitor comprising first (14) and second (16) conductive electrodes having a high k capacitor dielectric region (15) positioned therebetween, the high k capacitor dielectric region comprising layer of metal oxide having multiple different metals bonded with oxygen (column 4, lines 10-17, 24-26), one of the metals when bonded with oxygen having a first dielectric constant, another of the metals when bonded with oxygen having a second dielectric constant which is less than the first dielectric constant, the layer comprising at least one portion having a greater concentration of the one metal bonded with oxygen more proximate a center of the layer than another portion more proximate either of the first and second electrodes.

In re claim 19, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 18, wherein the another portion has a greater concentration of the another of the metals bonded with oxygen than the one portion.

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In re claim 20, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 18, wherein the another portion has a greater concentration of the another of the metals bonded with oxygen than the one portion.

In re claim 22, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 18, wherein the capacitor dielectric region consists essentially of the layer.

In re claim 26, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 25, wherein the layer comprises portions having a greater concentration of the first material more proximate both the first and second electrodes than the another portion more proximate a center of the layer.

In re claim 27, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 25, wherein the another portion contacts the one electrode.

In re claims 28, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the devices of claims 25, wherein the layer comprises portions having a greater concentration of the one metal bonded with oxygen more proximate both the first and second electrodes than the another portion more proximate the center of the layer, said greater concentration portions respectively contacting the first and second electrodes.

In re claim 29, as best understood, Watanabe discloses the device of claim 25, wherein the capacitor dielectric region consists essentially of the layer.

In re claim 32, Watanabe (Fig. 1) discloses a capacitor comprising first and second conductive electrodes having a high k charge storage dielectric region positioned therebetween, the high k charge storage dielectric region comprising a layer of metal oxide having multiple different metals bonded with oxygen, the layer having varying stoichiometry across its thickness,

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the layer comprising an inner region, a middle region, and an outer region, the middle region having a different stoichiometry than both the inner and outer regions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 10, 16, 23, 24, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe (as above).

In re claims 10, 16, 23, 24, 30 and 31, Watanabe discloses the devices of claims 5, 12, 18 and 25 respectively, wherein the metals bonded with oxygen may be strontium, bismuth, tantalum, niobium, barium or calcium but does not expressly disclose a titanate or titanium. Titanium and its derivative titanate are refractory metals similar to the metals suggested by Watanabe used in ferroelectric devices and it would have been obvious to for one skilled in the art to substitute a similar metal for another in the course of routine experimentation.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 09/05/01 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive

In response to applicant's argument that "Watanabe's ferroelectric capacitor operates in a completely different manner than the capacitors recited in the claims of the instant application,"

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a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

Applicant argues that the device of Watanabe "does not store charge." However, applicant is directed to column 6, lines 20-21, wherein Watanabe discusses data storage through the use of hysteresis.

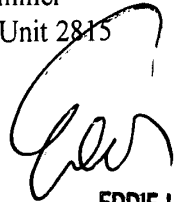
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jesse A Fenty whose telephone number is 703-308-8137. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Lee can be reached on 703-308-1690. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

JAF
November 21, 2001

Jesse A Fenty
Examiner
Art Unit 2815


EDDIE LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800